



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**Representative Kim Rose**  
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**Testimony**  
**Representative Kim Rose**  
118<sup>th</sup> District, Milford  
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Chairman Harp, Chairman Walker, and Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee, I am here to testify in strong support of the funding of after school programs.

I am here testifying before you today because it has come to my attention that a very important after school program in my district, WAVE, is in jeopardy of losing their funding. WAVE, the West Shore Achieves Visionary Education After-School program, is dependent on a partnership between Bridges, a community support agency, and the middle school in Milford. It is an extremely beneficial program that services over 80 families. My district is comprised of a lower and middle class demographic with many working families struggling to live at or below the poverty line. Without after school programming, like WAVE, these children would not have the opportunity to spend their afternoons engaging in enriching activities while in a supportive and social environment with their peers.

The skilled staff of WAVE provides additional educational support and advice that these students may not get without the after school program. With this program, students are able to ask for help while completing their homework while clarifying and reinforcing the materials that were covered in class. These professionals genuinely care about the development of the students socially, intellectually, and emotionally. In addition to state funding, the WAVE program is supported by the community and some existing funds designated by the public middle schools in Milford to ensure that high quality programming is provided to Milford's youth. For these reasons, I strongly encourage the committee to support funding to after school programs.

I thank you for your consideration.